

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Truth or Dare

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1800164.000

Medium: Film

Distributor: 20th Century Fox Film Distribution

Director: Jeff Wadlow

Producer: Jason Blum

Country of origin: United States

Language: English

Applicant: Chief Censor

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 13 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Violence, horror, sex scenes, offensive language and content that may disturb

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 27 April 2018

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 27 April 2018

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	Truth or Dare	99:52
Total running time:		99:52

Summary of reasons for decision:

The Chief Censor called this film in for classification under s13(3) of the FVPC Act. The Film and Video Labelling Body (FVLB) cross-rated the film at 'M' from its Australian rating. Under s12(3) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Regulations 1994, the FVLB has no discretion to

override the cross-rating from Australia. Due to the fact that the film was rated 'M' with the note 'Violence, offensive language & sex scenes' in Australia, and restricted to audiences 15 years and older in the UK, there was some concern the M rating may not be appropriate for New Zealand audiences. Truth or Dare is a teen horror film. It follows a group of college students who, thanks to a demonic entity, become entangled in a lethal game of Truth or Dare while in Mexico for Spring Break. One by one the characters are killed off in disturbing circumstances as they either fail their dares or do not tell a whole truth. The elements of horror, violence, adult themes (binge drinking, alcoholism, sexual assault) and demonically-inspired suicides are likely to shock and disturb children. However there is little focus on physical injury, rather the emotional impact of the various atrocities on the characters concerned. Teenagers are better able to process this material within its fictitious horror context. The R13 restriction takes into account the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the need to impose the least restrictive limitation on the right to freedom of expression that will prevent injury to the public good.